



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Sally Ellen Connolly (Republican)

House District 133

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

Do you support transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner?

Yes

I installed a 9kW solar system on my house back in 2011 via the CT Solar Lease program that was in place at the time. I also participated in the EnergizeCT audit program and replaced all of my lightbulbs with LEDs so that our solar would cover 100% of our electricity usage. These were environmentally-sound decisions that I made many years prior to my run for office which I hope will demonstrate a long-standing commitment to conservation efforts in CT. In my opinion, combining cost-efficiency, job-creation, and conservation is a win-win for everyone.

2) State Water Plan:

Will you support the plan as submitted to the legislature and affirm that water is a public trust?

Yes

3) Municipal Funding Pilot for Open Space:

Would you support legislation that would allow, but not require, certain municipalities to establish a dedicated fund to protect local open space, farmland and water resources through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?

Yes

When I was growing up in Easton, my father, Will Tressler, was heavily involved with Citizens for Easton and the Historical Society. One of my first memories of public advocacy was promoting the "Four Corners" initiative in Easton in order to preserve the open spaces found on the four corner intersection of Routes 136 and 58. I sold bumper stickers from our produce stand at the Easton Farmers' Market, wrote fundraising letters and attended town meetings alongside other advocates

and we were successful in reaching our goal! I would fully support this open space conservation initiative.

4) Plastic Bag Pollution:

Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags (or a ban/fee hybrid) to significantly reduce plastic bag pollution in our state?

Yes

I would support this initiative. Having lived in Ireland for a year in 1999-2000 and Sweden for a few months in 2002, it was commonplace for people to pay for plastic bags. I believe that the elimination of plastic bags is an important step in conservation and that it is a simple matter of pre-planning and being responsible citizens. I believe that we should be infusing new life into the "reduce, reuse, recycle" effort with tax incentives for businesses to provide more recycling bins in convenient locations (for example, there are no recycling bins in the public areas of my Fairfield nursing home). Lastly, I recently read an article citing statistics that abandoned fishing gear (aka ghost nets) make up the majority of plastics in our oceans. While plastic bag and straw reduction are great ways that we can help, how can we extend our reach?

5) Gas Pipeline:

Will you support the repeal of the pipeline tax established in 2015?

Yes

As long as this study was conducted without conflict of interest I would support the repeal of the tax. Just as I have to utilize research-based evidence in the medical field, the same should be considered re: policy decision-making.

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

Yes

I believe that carbon pricing would encourage better utilization of renewable energy resources, which would in turn, create jobs and improve CT's environment.

7) Additional Comments:

On additional fun fact: My father performed alongside Pete Seeger in the 1960s to fundraise for his Clearwater Hudson effort. Thank you for your time! Sally